

Application No.: 09/998699

Case No.: 57121US002

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-14 and 16-29 stand finally rejected. Claims 3 and 15 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants maintain their disagreement with the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-14 and 16-29, and reserve the right to re-submit any cancelled claim for further examination. In order to expedite the current prosecution, claims 1-29 have been cancelled in the present amendment, and new claims 30 and 31 have been added, which correspond to claims 3 and 15, respectively, rewritten in independent form. Applicants submit that the present amendment renders the rejection moot, and places the application in condition for immediate allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is therefore requested, and early indication of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

June 14, 2005
Date

By: Robert J. Pechman
Robert J. Pechman, Reg. No. 45,002
Telephone No.: (651) 737-0631

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833